

The party of 56 birds on 24 January was accompanied by one Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* and three Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*, both scarce inland.

Until April 1977 the lake level was constantly falling, and during the period when the Black-tailed Godwits were resident there was a wide expanse of vegetation-free mud, which contained large patches of decaying *Salvinia*, between the shore and the open water. The godwits were normally seen resting in shallow lake-water.

REFERENCES

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FIRST RECORD OF THE TURTLE DOVE *STREPTOPELIA TURTUR* IN KENYA

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While camped along the Barsaloi River at Barsaloi for the purpose of studying woodpeckers and barbets, we were visited daily at the campsite by a spotted-winged dove that seemed to be a Turtle Dove. The bird was rather tame, and fed close to the camp whereas Emerald-spotted Wood-Doves *Turtur chalcospilos*, common there, kept their distance. The most frequent associates of the Turtle Dove were Grey-headed Sparrows *Passer griseus*, especially one individual with a malformed bill, and White-browed Sparrow Weavers *Plocepasser mahali*. The Turtle Dove was observed closely (down to 3 m) whenever we were at camp between 16 and 19 October 1976, and was photographed with both black and white and colour film. Four black and white prints and eight colour slides were available for comparison. Some of the photographs are lodged in the Bird Room of the National Museum, Nairobi.

The Turtle Dove is European, western Asian and north African in its breeding distribution, wintering south to the Sahel and beyond in the west, reaching Gambia, Nigeria, Central Zaire, Sudan and Ethiopia. Its occurrence as a straggler in north-central Kenya is thus not unexpected.

The bird was a rather small *Streptopelia* with a black and white striped pattern on each side of the neck, brown back, pinkish throat and breast, and white-tipped tail, as well as the characteristic black spotting of the buffy wing coverts and tertials of *S. turtur*. Of various other conceivable species, only *S. orientalis* the Rufous or Eastern Turtle Dove is similar in pattern - the bird observed was too small and pale above and below to be *orientalis*; diagnostic were its grey, not brownish nape and hindneck, and grey area in front of the neck patches (*orientalis* is brown in these areas). Of the two species, *orientalis* is less likely to have strayed to Kenya from its westernmost range in west-central Asia. Racial determination was impossible, of course, but we feel that the bird was probably *arenicola* as it seemed too pale for the nominate race and lacked the broad, pale, but bright edgings of the wing feathers of the Saharan *hoggara* and northeastern African *isabellina*. Instead, the feather edges were brownish buff. Specimens of these races, and of all *Streptopelia* species were available in the American Museum of Natural History for comparison with the photographs.

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